

On page 1, line 10, please delete "08/____" and replace with -- 08/663,518 --.

On page 6, line 20, please replace "finally" with -- finely --.

On page 9, line 25, please insert -- (ethylene-propylene terpolymer) -- after "EPDM".

On page 10, line 17, please delete "Elgiloy® and Phynox®" and replace with -ELGILOY®-- and --PHYNOX®--, respectively.

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1-23 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

A²
24. (New) An implantable medical prosthesis having at least one opening therein and comprising a coating which covers at least a portion of the prosthesis, wherein the coating comprises a polymeric material incorporating a biologically active material, and wherein the average particle size of the biologically active material is equal to or less than about 15 µm and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the prosthesis to preserve the opening therein when the stent is expanded.

25. (New) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the average particle size of the biologically active material is equal to or less than about 10 µm.

26. (New) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises about 25-45 weight percent of the biologically active material.

27. (New) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the biologically active material includes heparin.

28. (New) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the polymeric material is a hydrophobic elastomeric material.

29. (New) The prosthesis of claim 28 wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of silicones, polyurethanes, polyamide elastomers,

ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, polyolefin elastomers, ethylene-propylene terpolymer rubbers and combinations thereof.

30. (New) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the coating reduces an initial burst release of the biologically active material upon implantation of the prosthesis as compared to a coating comprising the same biologically active material having an average particle size greater than about 15 μm .

31. (New) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the prosthesis is an expandable stent having a tubular metal body having open ends and a sidewall structure having openings therein and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the sidewall structure to preserve the openings therein when the stent is expanded.

32. (New) The prosthesis of claim 31 wherein the stent is a braided stent.

33. (New) An implantable medical prosthesis having at least one opening therein and comprising a coating which covers at least a portion of the prosthesis, wherein the coating comprises a hydrophobic elastomeric material incorporating a biologically active material having an average particle size equal to or less than about 15 μm , wherein the coating reduces an initial burst release of the biologically active material after implantation of the prosthesis as compared to a coating comprising the same biologically active material having an average particle size of greater than about 15 μm and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the prosthesis to preserve the opening therein when the stent is expanded.

34. (New) The prosthesis of claim 33 wherein the biologically active material includes heparin and the elastomeric material includes silicone.

35. (New) The prosthesis of claim 33 wherein the prosthesis is an expandable stent having a tubular metal body having open ends and a sidewall structure having openings therein and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the sidewall structure to preserve the openings therein when the stent is expanded.